

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

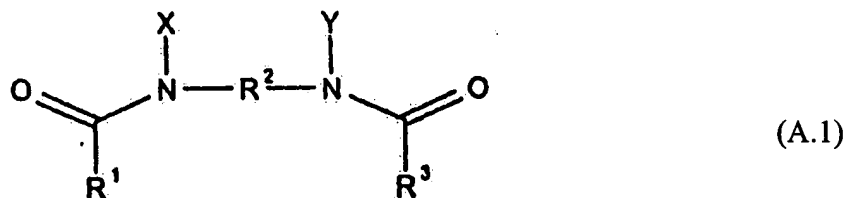
Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surfactant composition comprising
 - (A) 1 to 90 wt%, referring to the total amount of components (A) and (B), of one or more gemini surfactant(s) and,
 - (B) referring to the remainder, based on the total of components (A) and (B), at least one additional detergent component with poor initial foaming characteristics, selected from the group consisting of ~~sulfosuccinates~~, ~~acyllactylates~~, ~~alkyl isethionates~~, acylated protein condensates, acylglutamates, and mixtures thereof.
2. (Previously Presented) The surfactant composition of Claim 1, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises 20 to 60 wt%, referring to the components (A) and (B), of one or more gemini surfactant(s).
3. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any one of claims 1 or 2, further comprising
 - (C) at least 0.1 wt% water, referring to the total composition.
4. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, further comprising:
 - (D) at least 0.1 wt% of one or more oil component(s), referring to the total composition.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises, as a detergent component, acyllactylates, acylglutamates, and mixtures thereof.
8. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises, as a detergent component, sodium-, potassium-, magnesium-, or calcium salts at the hydroxyl group of linear or branched, saturated or non-adjacently mono- to triunsaturated, cyclic or acyclic carboxylic acids with C₆ to C₂₄ esterified monomeric lactic acid, or the oligomers thereof, the oligomerization degree of the lactic acid being in the range of from 1.1 to 10.
9. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the gemini surfactant comprises at least one nitrogen atom at the link between spacer, hydrophilic group, and hydrophobic group.
10. (Original) A surfactant composition according to claim 9, characterized in that the gemini surfactant or the blend thereof comprises an amine- or amide-group containing spacer with 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
11. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the gemini surfactant comprises a hydrophobic double group with a C₆

to C₂₄-hydrocarbon residue each.

12. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises 1 to 30 wt% of component (A), referring to the total amount of ionic surfactants that are not gemini surfactants in conformity with component (A).
13. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the components (A) and (B) are present in the whole composition in a total amount of from 0.1 to 40 wt%.
14. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the gemini surfactant has the general formula (A.1)



wherein the substituents have the following meanings:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| R ¹ , R ³ | C ₅ - to C ₂₅ -alkyl group that can be branched, unbranched, saturated or unsaturated as far as not adjacently diunsaturated; |
| R ₂ | C ₁ - to C ₁₂ -alkylene; |
| X, Y | (C ₂ H ₄ O-) _x (C ₃ H ₆ O-) _y -FR; x+y ≥ 1, x: 0-15, y: 0-10; and |
| FR | -SO ₃ M, -CH ₂ -CO ₂ M, -P(O)(OM) ₂ , H, -C ₃ H ₆ SO ₃ M, -CH ₂ (CHOH) ₄ CH ₂ OH, insofar as x+y=0, wherein M = alkali, (alkyl)ammonium, alkanol ammonium, H, or ½ alkaline earth. |

15-27. (Withdrawn)

28. (Currently Amended) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises a gemini surfactant of the general formula (AI) as component (A) and ~~sulfosuccinate~~, acyllactylate, alkyl isethionates, ~~betaines~~, acylglutamates, and mixtures thereof as component (B).
29. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises a gemini surfactant of the general formula (A111) as component (A) and acyllactylates, acylglutamates, and mixtures thereof as component (B).
30. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises a gemini surfactant of the general formula (CII) as component (A) and acyllactylates, acylglutamates, alkyl isethionates, and mixtures thereof as component (B).
31. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises a gemini surfactant of the general formula (DI) as component (A) and acyllactylates, acylglutamates, alkyl isethionates, and mixtures thereof as component (B).
32. (Original) A surfactant composition according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the surfactant composition comprises a gemini surfactant of the general

formula (DI) as component (A) and acyllactylates, acylglutamates, alkyl isethionates, and mixtures thereof as component (B).

33. (Original) The surfactant composition of claim 8 wherein the oligomerization degree of the lactic acid is in the range of from 1.1 to 4.
34. (Original) The surfactant composition of any of claims 1 or 2 wherein said gemini surfactant comprises a hydrophillic double (head) group comprising at least one alkoxylated residue bearing a group selected from sulfonic acid-, carboxylic acid-, phosphonic acid-, polyalcohol-, polyalkylene-oxide group, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
35. (Original) The surfactant composition of any of claims 1 or 11 wherein said gemini surfactant comprises a hydrophillic double (head) group comprising at least one alkoxylated residue bearing a group selected from sulfonic acid-, carboxylic acid-, phosphonic acid-, polyalcohol-, polyalkylene-oxide group, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
36. (Original) The surfactant composition of claim 12 wherein said anionic surfactant are anionic surfactants.
37. (Original) The surfactant composition of claim 13 wherein the components (A) and (B) are present in the whole composition in the total amount of from 0.1 to 10 wt%.

38-44. (Withdrawn)